



The Mainframe — Karl Easton, Computer Operator, loading the Alumni records tape on the Hewlett-Packard 3000.

and Placement, Financial Aid and Housing, Secondary School Liaison, Continuing Education and the individual academic departments. This information also helps the Alumni Association tailor its programs and

services to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of graduates.

While the basic system Mr. Mason designed was of immense value to the College, it was necessary to go one step further. By ad-

ding a personal computer to the system, rather than a straight video display terminal, the capabilities of the system could be expanded to include word processing, budgeting, budget projections and scheduling. Further, the Alumni Office staff would be able to store selected lists of Alumni on floppy discs rather than setting them up in the highly-expensive main computer storage.

There are two features of the system that make it technologically unique. The first is the speed with which it was developed. All told, it took Mr. Mason three man-weeks to design. The second is that this system links a personal computer to a large Hewlett-Packard Mainframe computer via hardware and software. The hardware is a regular cable. The software is a special program, called an emulator program which enables the two machines to communicate. Each of the two machines operates in its own distinct language. Without the emulator program, they literally couldn't "talk" to each other.

As far as can be determined, no other educational institution in Canada is using this type of system.

Any college graduate who wishes to be added to the Alumni Association's mailing list can do so by contacting or visiting the Alumni office in room C107 of the Fennell campus or by calling (416) 575-2258.

Helping you to keep In Touch

Accurate records.

Without them, your Alumni Association can't function. It can't help its members and it can't help Mohawk College.

By now many of you will have been contacted by the Alumni office staff to find out where you're living, what you're doing for a living, the name and address of your employer, etc. etc.

But, as those of you who've been called will remember, the questionnaire involved a lot more than just a standard name, address and phone number routine.

When the Alumni Office contacts a graduate the list of questions is long. It includes such things as your parents' address and telephone number, the kinds of activities in which you participated while studying at Mohawk, other post-secondary institutions you've attended and any additional degrees or diplomas you received. The list also includes your salary range and the names and birth-dates of your children.

There are many sound reasons for gathering this information, all of which, incidentally, is completely confidential.

Let's take your parents' names and addresses, for example.

Our graduates, because of the high-quality training they've received at Mohawk, are very mobile and, in the general chaos known as moving, they don't always remember to let us know their new addresses and phone numbers. Many alumni associations spend a great deal of time and money keeping track of two, three, four and more past addresses for each alumnus so that they can be traced if the current address isn't known. The Mohawk College Alumni Association has tried to simplify graduating by keeping track of parents' addresses and telephone

numbers. Parents are likely to stay in one place much longer than the recent graduate who has to move around to climb up the ladder to the top of his or her career. Also, the amount of expensive computer storage space required for the file of each Alumnus is greatly reduced.

The question on salary ranges may appear, on the surface, to be none of our business. But, rest assured that we do have an objective reason for asking it. Our 18,000 graduates hold a great many, varied positions in the workforce. Some are clerks and tellers, others are vice-presidents, managers and department directors. When the Association is planning its programs and services each year, it must be sure its offerings will appeal to as many members as possible. There's no sense, for example, in offering a \$1,200-a-person Caribbean cruise if most of our graduates make less than \$20,000 a year. Most can't afford it. But they might be interested in a trip to the Quebec Winter Carnival or Kitchener's Oktoberfest.

Similarly, some of our graduates might wonder why the Association wants their children's names and birthdates. Here again, there's an objective reason for asking about them.

Each year, Mohawk College receives about three times as many applications as it can accept. Nonetheless, the College still wants to accept only the best and brightest students into its programs. By knowing your children's names and ages, we can send them information on College programs when they reach 17 years of age. In short, it is a recruiting tool the Association hopes will ensure that Mohawk gets its share of the best secondary school graduates in Canada.

As mentioned earlier, all of the information you provide us with is strictly confidential. We won't even tell a former classmate where you are living unless we have your written permission.

So, if you haven't been called yet by the Alumni Office, please be patient. With some 18,000 graduates to locate, it may take some time before the staff gets to you.

When you are called, the Association sincerely appreciates your co-operation. The information it seeks is vital to the success of its work — and to the future of Mohawk College.